(b) and (c) Publications of research articles in Hindi and their translation will help to widen the research base. Steps have been taken by Department of Electronics to bring out information in Hindi, relating to policy on electronics technology as also those relating to contemporary research and development taking place around the world. The Department has been publishing a quarterly journal viz. Electroniki Bharati in Hindi which *inter-alia* contains scientific and technical articles.

**Setting up of Information Network**

849. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an information network in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India set up the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 1977 to provide computer based services to the Central Government departments for planning and decision support. Since 1985 NIC services were progressively extended to the State and Union Territory Governments and District Administrations to ensure a systematics procedure for information exchange and decision support among various departments/ Ministries of Central Government, State Governments and District Administrations. To facilitate this, NIC has set up four Regional Computer Centres at Delhi, Bhubaneshwar, Pune and Hyderabad, each having a large main-frame Computer. Computers have also been installed in the State capitals. In the District Administrations, Super micro computers have been or are being installed. All these computers are connected *via* satellite to form a computer communication network called NICNET. The Regional Centre at Delhi functions are the central node of the network, where a Master Earth Station has been installed.

The network facilities exchange of information among Central Government, State Government departments and District Administrations. NIC has already installed computer and communications hardware in nearly 400 districts in the country. After studying the information requirement at the district level, NIC has developed 27 general software packages relating to Agriculture, Ground Water, Animal Husbandry. Buildings and Works, Civil Supplies, District Collectorate, Collegiate Education, District Planning, Employment, Fisheries, Health, Irrigation, Industry, Labour Panchayat, Power, Public Instruction, Road and Bridges, Rural Development, SC/ST Development, Social Forestry Social Welfare Town Planning, Transport, Water Authority, District Treasury and MIS for Collector. Many of these packages have already been implemented in several of the districts alongwith the corresponding data bases which enable quick availability of information for planning and decision making.

**Percentage of Population below Poverty Line**

850. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the percentage of population below poverty-line state-wise?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANTH PRATAP SINGH): A statement in placed hereunder: